

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SAJ-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02

STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 071744Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9609

INFO USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

ALL EC CAPITALS 0057

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 10269

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORF FR

SUBJECT: QUAI REACTION TO LUXEMBOURG EC SUMMIT

2. WORKING LEVEL QUAI OFFICERS FROM POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DIVISIONS HAVE DESCRIBED FRENCH REACTION TO APRIL 1-2 LUXEMBOURG EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING TO US AS "JUST ABOUT WHAT WE EXPECTED." THEY CLAIMED THAT GOF IS NOT PARTICULARLY DISAPPOINTED WITH MEETING'S MEAGER ACCOMPLISHMENTS. THEY SAID THAT IT WAS EVIDENT LONG BEFORE THE COUNCIL MEETING THAT UNDER PRESENT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS THERE WAS LITTLE HOPE FOR MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. NEVERTHELESS THEY EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOF

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CONTINUES TO FEEL THAT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL FORMAT

REMAINS VIABLE EVEN IF IT DOES NOT PRODUCE MAJOR DECISIONS AND HEADLINE STEALING COMMUNIQUE ON A THRICE-YEARLY BASIS.

3. QUAI OFFICIALS SAID THAT DURING THE SESSIONS AT LUXEMBOURG, GOF HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY IN AGREEMENT WITH THRUST OF CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S ADMONITION THAT CLOSER ALIGNMENT AMONG NATIONAL ECONOMIES WOULD BE NECESSARY BEFORE FURTHER STEPS COULD BE TAKEN TOWARD ECONOMIC OR MONETARY UNION. WHEN ASKED ABOUT ARTICLES WHICH RECENTLY APPEARED IN FIGARO AND QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS SUGGESTING THAT THE FRENCH HAD RESENTED SCHMIDT'S "OVERBEARING" ATTITUDE AT LUXEMBOURG, QUAI EC DESK OFFICER CANTONI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE GERMAN CHANCELLOR HAD A REPUTATION FOR BEING OCCASIONALLY BRUSQUE AND PERHAPS OVERLY "BUSINESS-LIKE" AT TIMES. BUT HE DENIED THAT SCHMIDT'S BEHAVIOR AT LUXEMBOURG HAD BEEN AT ALL OFFENSIVE TO FRENCH SENSIBILITIES. AS AN EXPLANATION FOR FRENCH PRESS REPORTING ALONG SUCH LINES, CANTONI OFFERED THE OPINION THAT WITH SUCH SLIM SUBSTANTIVE PICKINGS, JOURNALISTS HAD BEEN FORCED TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING TO SATISFY THEIR PARIS PUBLISHERS.

4. ON POPULARLY ELECTED EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, CANTONI SAID PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING'S PROPOSAL THAT CURRENT NATIONAL REPRESENTATION BE RETAINED IN AN ELECTED ASSEMBLY WAS MEANT TO SERVE TWO PURPOSES: FIRST, TO SHOW THAT THE PRESIDENT REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE CONCEPT OF POPULAR ELECTIONS IN SPITE OF INTERNAL CRITICISMS FROM GAULLISTS AND COMMUNISTS, AND, SECOND,

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9610
INFO USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
ALL EC CAPITALS 0058
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 10269

TO PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATION AMONG FOREIGN MINISTERS BETWEEN NOW AND THE NEXT EUROPEAN COUNCIL SESSION IN JULY. BOTH OUR SOURCES SEEMED CONVINCED THAT JULY EC SUMMIT WOULD FINALLY SETTLE THE ISSUE.

COMMENT: OUR SOURCES WERE DISTINCTLY MORE UPBEAT ON THE LUXEMBOURG CONFERENCE THAN WAS THE MAJORITY OF FRENCH PRESS OPINION. APRIL 3-4 HEADLINES SPOKE ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY OF "FAILURE, FIASCO AND SETBACK," AND ONE PARTICULARLY BITING COLUMN IN LE MONDE SAID THAT THE LUXEMBOURG EXPERIENCE CALLED INTO QUESTION THE ENTIRE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONCEPT OF MEETINGS AMONG HEADS OF STATE ON EC QUESTIONS. WE BELIEVE THAT PRESS REPORTING CLOSELY REFLECTS POPULAR PERCEPTION OF LUXEMBOURG SUMMIT. AS SUCH IT DEMONSTRATES THAT WHETHER GISCARD AND THE QUAI LIKE IT OR NOT EUROPEAN SUMMITS CREATE POPULAR EXPECTATIONS OF "SUCCESS." WHEN "SUCCESS" IS NOT PRODUCED, THE PUBLIC --HERE AS ELSEWHERE--FEELS DECEIVED. IN FRANCE, THIS SORT OF POPULAR REACTION IS NOT LIKELY TO IMPROVE GISCARD'S IMAGE OR TO STRENGTHEN CONFIDENCE IN THE "CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE".

ARTICLES ON SCHMIDT'S ALLEGED BEHAVIOR ARE LATEST IN RECENT SERIES OF FRENCH PRESS PIECES ON GERMANY. NOT ALL HAVE BEEN FAVORABLE TO BONN AND SOME SHOW VEILED SUSPICION THAT GERMAN ECONOMIC GROWTH POSES DANGERS TO FRENCH POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE. WE SUSPECT

THAT GISCARD WILL HAVE TO TAKE CARE IF HIS RECENT
REFERENCES TO FRG AS POTENTIAL DOMINATOR OF EUROPE
(PARIS 9624) ARE NOT TO BACKFIRE BY TOUCHING OFF
LATENT ANTI-GERMAN FEELING WHICH EVEN NOW REMAINS
SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE AVERAGE OLDER FRENCHMAN'S
PSYCHOLOGICAL BAGGAGE. END COMMENT.
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